

Develop Sustained Movement to Fight Price Rise

There is no need for statistical data to prove that the prices of essential commodities are rising by leaps and bounds to the further worsening of the condition of living of common men in our country, inasmuch as every one belonging to the low and middle income groups is feeling the pinch of rising prices. But to properly understand the problem and expose the tissue of lies the Congress leaders and ministers are dishing out to the people with the obvious aim of creating confusion among them, it may be necessary to reiterate some known facts.

The Prime Minister of India told the Congress Parliamentary Party on July 21 last that the rise in prices and inflation are the result of last and this years' drought in some parts of the country, the Indo-Pak war of 1971 and consequent influx of a large number of evacuees from Bangladesh. Had this been the real reason of the soaring prices and galloping inflation then there ought not to have been steep rise in prices of essential commodities prior to the Indo-Pak war of 1971. But the reality is otherwise.

Phenomenal Rise in Prices

The root of price rise can be traced to the second Five Year Plan. Over the Second Plan period the general price level recorded a rise of 30 per cent which on an average comes to 6 per cent rise every year. The extent of rise during the Third Plan was also 6 per cent a year on an average. At the beginning of the seventies the rate came down to 3.7 per cent but, after a short period, in 1971-72 it again rose to 5.5 per cent. Thus, it is a blatant lie to claim that the prices have started rising only after the Indo-Pak war of 1971 and the last and this years' drought in some parts of the country.

It is, however, true that during the second half of 1972 and thereafter the price rise is simply alarming. A recent estimate by the Reserve Bank of India indicates that during the last twelve months average retail price has increased by 19.9 per cent and that in case of food articles by 24.1 per cent. The survey conducted by the Indian Council of Consumer Products reveals that during

the last one year average retail price has recorded a rise of 35 per cent.

To give a better and concrete picture of the rise in prices of daily necessities, we publish below a study recently made about the extent of price rise in course of the last seven years. The study was published in the Hindusthan Standard. (dated July 26 last)

Items Prices Prices Prices

	as in 1966 (Rs.)	as in 1972 (Rs.)	as in 1973 (Rs.)
Rice (Kg.)	0.75	1.60	2.60
Wheat (Kg.)	0.58	1.00	1.40
Sugar (Kg.)	1.20	2.20	4.00
Mustard Oil (Kg.)	2.25	5.75	7.80
Cocoonut Oil (Kg.)	4.00	8.00	12.00
Dalda (Kg.)	3.50	6.00	9.00
Moogdal (Kg.)	1.00	2.00	3.50
Musurdal (Kg.)	1.25	1.60	2.40
Poppy Seeds (Kg.)	2.50	3.00	6.00
Chillies (Kg.)	2.50	3.00	5.60
Coal (Quintal)	6.00	9.00	15.00
Kerosene (Litre)	0.50	0.60	1.50
Fish (Kg.)	5.00	7.00	12.00
Lobster (Kg.)	6.00	10.00	22.00
Shrimps (Kg.)	2.50	4.00	6.00
Mutton (Kg.)	4.00	6.00	10.00
Baby Food	Fair Price	Fair Price	14.00 (Per item)
Dhuties Per Pc.)	4.00 5.00	6.00 7.00	10.00
Lungi (Per Pc.)	3.50	4.00	8.00
Salt (Kg.)	0.12	0.20	0.30
Sarees (Medium) (Per Pc.)	6.00	8.00	12.00

None can accuse the Hindusthan Standard of anti-Congress bias. The fact, on the contrary, is that this newspaper is a faithful and
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PROLETARIAN ERA 48, Lenin Sarani, Cal-13. Proletarian Era

ORGAN OF SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA

(Fortnightly)

Editor-in-Chief—Shibdas Ghosh

VOL. 7

15th AUGUST, '73

PRICE 20 P.

No. 1

WEDNESDAY

Air Surcharge 4. P.

Significance of 15th August

India attained political independence on 15th August, 1947. But the objective for which the Indian people fought for independence remained unrealised. The Indian people wanted to overthrow the British rule in our country with a view to make themselves free from all sorts of exploitation—political, economic, social and cultural. But after the transfer of power not only these aspirations of the Indian people remained unrealised but their sufferings have been aggravated many times. The reasons for such a state of affairs are to be carefully examined.

Indian society was broadly divided into two opposing camps much before India attained independence. At one pole there exists the national bourgeois class which wants to possess the total wealth of the country and the means of production and at the other there exists the broad masses of the people. Both of them participated in the national independence struggle and both of them wanted to drive away the British imperialists, though with different motives. The broad masses of the Indian people fought for independence to establish a society, free from all sorts of exploitation and in which would exist all opportunities for the fullest development of all the people of our country. But the national bourgeoisie who also participated in this struggle for independence had a quite different motive. The British imperialists were taking the major share of the loot of the wealth of this country and the national bourgeoisie were thus eager to get control of the state power so that they could freely exploit

the vast market of India. In a word the national bourgeoisie wanted to step into the shoe of the British imperialists. In our country as no genuine working class party emerged and established its leadership over the Indian struggle of independence, the Indian bourgeoisie came into the leadership. And in the era of moribund capitalism and proletarian revolution, the Indian bourgeoisie, being a part of the world bourgeois class, which had already become reactionary, were mortally afraid of proletarian revolution, in which eventuality not only the British imperialists but the Indian bourgeois class also would be overthrown and socialism would be established. So the Indian bourgeoisie played the reformist oppositional role against the British imperialists. Though an uncompromising trend reflecting petty-bourgeois revolutionism was also observed, but it was not the dominant trend and the reformist section of the Indian bourgeoisie came to the leadership of the independence
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FOIL DIVERSIONARY TACTICS OF THE CONGRESS

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loyal defender of the Congress like all other big newspapers in West Bengal. So if there is any error in this study, it is liable to err in favour of and not against the ruling party and the Governments run by it.

Increased Production and Price Rise

Now what may be the causes of this phenomenal rise in prices of essential commodities? It is very often contended by the so-called economic experts that this rise in prices and inflation in India are the result of a chronic shortage of goods and services in the economy of the country. And on the basis of this opinion, the Congress leaders and Ministers, the so-called economic experts, the press in general and other propaganda media run by the Government constantly advise the working people to increase production by all means. While not disagreeing with the postulate that chronic shortage of goods and services is apt to raise prices, we want to make it unambiguously clear that in a capitalist society like ours with the law of maximum profit operating, it is not always true that increased production reduces the prices of articles. Experience has proved times without number beyond any shade of doubt that increased production *by itself* is no guarantee against rise in prices. In spite of increased production, the hoarders, speculators, black-marketeers and monopolists can corner goods, create their artificial scarcity in market, raise their prices through manipulation and fleece the people to reap maximum profit possible in the circumstances. Without proper distribution through a proper distributing system and machinery, increased production *alone* cannot check rise in prices. This

is not only theoretically true but also borne out by facts in our country. The following table gives the comparative estimates of per capita availability of some articles over the last twenty-one years ending in 1971-72.

Items	1950-51	1955-56	1971-72
Foodgrains (gms)	395	401	428.22
Edible Oil (kg.)	2.7	2.5	2.7
Sugar (kg)	3.0	5.0	6.7
Cotton Cloth (Metre)	11.0 (1956)	14.4 (1961)	14.1 (1971)
Kerosene (kg.)	5.3	5.1	6.1
Woollen Textiles (Metre)	0.03	0.04	0.03

The table shows that per capita availability of food grains, sugar, cotton cloth and kerosene has increased while that of edible oil and woollen textiles remained stationary in 1971-72 compared to 1950-51. Had increased production and consequent increased per capita availability *ipso facto* been the panacea for price rise then prices of food grains, cotton textiles and sugar ought to have not risen many many times in 1971-72 compared to 1950-51. So, it is a travesty of truth to say that "the rising trend in the price level can ultimately be checked through increased production *alone*" as asserted by the Union Finance Minister, Mr. Chavan in his last speech in the Lok Sabha.

Wage Rise and Price Rise

It is also contended that wage-rise in our country is the cause of price rise. This is also not true. It is the age-old argument of the vested interests to increasingly exploit the working people. The truth is that it is not increase in wage that raises the prices but just the other way round. Prices rise first and wage follows rising prices at a distance. The more the prices rise, the more is the gap between the prices and the wage, resulting in more fall in real

wage of the workers, notwithstanding some increase in money wage. This is what is actually happening in our country. A recent estimate by Dr. Palekar shows that industrial workers drawing less than Rs 200 per month (who constitute the bulk of the total number of workers in our country) lived about 5 per cent below the subsistence level in 1969 and in so far as the real wage of the workers is concerned, during the Second and the Third Plan period the index of real wage stood about 5 per cent below the 1955 level. Furthermore, it has been estimated that wage cost in major industries constituted 18.56 per cent of the total cost in 1947; it dropped to 14.9 per cent in 1957; now it is about 14 per cent. Thus, wages of workers are not really increasing; on the contrary, their real wages are declining and, hence, the contention that wage-rise is contributing to the rise in prices is not founded on logic.

Government Policies Mainly Responsible For Price Rise

In fact, leaving aside the basic cause of the present crisis, namely, the existing capitalist economy of our country, the factors for the phenomenal rise in prices and galloping inflation are to be found in the economic, fiscal and credit policies of the government coupled with its unwillingness and inability to confiscate black money and stop price manipulation by the hoarders, speculators, black marketeers and monopolists. None, not even the Congress ministers, can now deny that unbridled deficit financing by the government has been one of the main factors for the spiralling of prices and galloping inflation in India. The amount of deficit financing has indeed surpassed all limit. In 1971-72 it was Rs 710 crore and in 1972-73 it further rose to Rs 862 crores. And the

amount has by and large been spent in non-productive work like defence expenditure, expenses for bureaucracy, etc. The next factor which has pushed up the prices to a large extent is the policy of imposing high rates of indirect taxation on almost all articles of production and consumption, like excise duties, etc. The total amount collected as indirect taxes by the government is entirely added (if not more) by the big business to the prices, resulting in continuous rise in prices. Then again, the pro-hoarder credit policy of the government expressed through loans and advances to the big business majorly by the nationalised banks is enabling the big hoarders, speculators and the monopolists to get huge amount of loans and advances from these banks and stock and corner goods thereby creating their artificial scarcity in the market so as to manipulate their prices and reap maximum profit. Government's unwillingness to confiscate black money by appropriate measures, including demonetisation of currency notes, has given an additional power to the monopolists and unscrupulous businessmen to hoard goods and fleece the people. Lastly, the government, by refusing to introduce all-out state-trading in essential commodities, has been giving the hoarders, speculators, black-marketeers and monopolists a free hand to hoard and corner goods, create their artificial scarcity in the market, manipulate their prices and reap maximum profit. It should be realised that whole-sale state-trading is no substitute for all-out state-trading and cannot check black-market price. The experience of the whole-sale state-trading in wheat should serve as an eye-opener to those who oppose all-out state-trading and, in its place, advocate whole-sale state-trading as means to

The Congress is Trying to Shield the Real Culprits

ensure a proper distribution system to check rise in prices and secure regular supply of essential articles of consumption to the public. Peacemeal measures like whole-sale state-trading or half-control-and-half-decontrol (as in the case of sugar) are bound to fail. They invariably lead to the pitfalls of a dual market in which the so-called fair price market serves as a feeder to the open black market, whole-salers passing themselves on as retailers through hundreds of their hired agents and carrying on black-marketing.

Develop Sustained United Movement

In the background of all these facts, it is clear that the economic, fiscal and credit policies of the Congress Government coupled with its unwilling to confiscate black money and introduce all-out state-trading in essential commodities and refusal to deal with a strong hand the hoarders, speculators, black-marketeers and monopolists are mainly responsible for the rise in prices and galloping inflation and consequent sufferings of common men. Any political party or individual who wants to bring down prices and give some measure of relief to the people suffering from acute distress due to rise in prices cannot but seriously strive to develop a sustained mighty united mass movement to compel the government to concede to the demands of the people to put an end to unbridled deficit financing by the government, drastically reduce indirect taxation on essential articles, stop loans and advances by banks and other financial institutions to the big agriculturists, big stockists, hoarders, speculators and monopolists against essential articles in general and food articles in particular, confiscate black money, introduce all-out state-trading in essential commodities, give exemplary punishment to the hoarders,

price-manipulators, black-marketeers and bring down prices of daily necessities. It should be realised that it is because of the government's policies that the hoarders and black-marketeers can hoard and black-market. Any government that really wants to stop black-marketing can do so by taking appropriate measures in that direction. The Congress Governments have no mind to do it. They have no doubt, detained or arrested some persons but they are all small businessmen. Not a single person of those big sharks who are really responsible for hoarding, black-marketing, price manipulation and spiralling of prices has been detained or arrested by the government. This fact proves that the Congress and its governments are not at all willing to touch the real culprits. Hence, any party, that speaks of lowering the prices of essential commodities but refuses to conduct any movement against the Congress government and its anti-people policies and, on the contrary, seeks co-operation of the Congress and the Congress government, only tries to misdirect the people's indignation in order to serve its sectarian petty party politics. The role of the CPI should be understood in the light of this reality.

Foil Diversionsary Tactics of CPI and Congress

There is no denying the fact that suffering from increasing miseries and burning with indignation for the spiralling of prices, the people earnestly desire the left and democratic parties to seriously take up their cause, unitedly move to bring down the prices of essential articles and give some amount of relief to them. Fully aware of this desire of the people, our party unitedly with the RSP and the Forward Bloc is determined to carry forward the

programme adopted by the eight parties and develop a sustained united mass movement in West Bengal to force the government to concede to the demands of the people. It is only natural that the Congress, the Congress government and the CPI will adopt diversionary tactics to frustrate our programme for developing a sustained united mass movement and to create confusion among the people for the purpose. With this end in view the CPI is talking of dehoarding and the Congress has started the so-called movement for developing consumers' resistance against price rise. But against whom will this movement be conducted? Is it not a fact that the rise in prices is mainly due to the policies of the Congress government? Undoubtedly it is. That being the reality, the movement for the lowering of prices cannot but be directed against the Congress Government and its relevant policies. But the so-called dehoarding movement by the CPI and the consumers' resistance alleged to be organised by the Congress will not be directed against the Congress government and its policies. They are not directed against the big hoarders and speculators and the monopolists who backed by government policy hoard and corner goods, create their artificial scarcity in the market, raise their prices, fleece the people and reap fabulous profit. What sorts of movement are they then?

The so-called consumers' resistance movement by the Congress will be directed as in the last year, against the petty shopkeepers, the small vegetable or fish vendors and such other persons, who are not really responsible for the present phenomenal rise in prices but, on the contrary, are themselves victims of price rise. This is already happening.

The so-called consumers' resistance is, therefore, no movement at all. It is a deliberate conspiracy to misdirect people's indignation, shield the monopolists and big hoarders speculators and black-marketeers and try to exploit people's feeling to further the anti-people politics of the Congress. Our people must take guard against this diversionary tactics of the ruling Congress and foil its sinister move to misdirect people's indignation and frustrate the development of a sustained mighty united mass movement against the Congress government, its anti-people policies and the vested interests already initiated by the SUCI, the RSP and the Forward Bloc at different levels which alone can safeguard the genuine interest of the people. We are confident that the people will come forward to implement the programme for developing a sustained united mass movement and wrest their demands from the unwilling hands of the ruling party and its government.

Glaring Example of Congress Govt. Serving the Birlas

New Delhi, August 12—Sometime back a discussion in the Rajya Sabha disclosed how the Congress Governments at the Centre and in Gujarat had sacrificed public interests in order to serve the interests of the Birlas.

A 10 MW thermal power plant was set up by the state government at Porbandar in Saurashtra region of Gujarat in the interest of the Birlas.

The power generation cost of this plant was 16 paise per unit but the state government supplied power at the rate

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Overthrow Capitalism, Smash Capitalist State Machine and Establish Socialism For Complete Emancipation

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movement and this national reformist section of the Indian bourgeoisie took over power from the British imperialists on 15th August, 1947.

With the establishment of a bourgeois national state in India, conditions for freest, widest and speediest development of Indian capitalism possible in the prevailing national and international situation have been created and the Indian bourgeoisie have been making all possible efforts to develop India as a powerful capitalist country in the shortest possible time. With this aim in view they launched several five year plans. But this attempt of industrialisation within the framework of capitalist relation of production with law of maximum profit operative has been made at a time when world capitalism is in the grip of deepening crisis. World capitalist economy has lost even the relative stability of market in the period of its general crisis, which it used to enjoy till the second world war, as a result of which crisis has become more frequent, more prolonged and effecting more branches of industries and the tendency of decay and stagnation of capitalist economy has become more pronounced. In the midst of such a deepening crisis in the world capitalist economy, of which the capitalist economy of our country is a part, the Indian bourgeoisie are trying to develop India as a powerful capitalist country. The maximum profit making motive of capitalism is pauperising the Indian people and even in a relatively capitalistically underdeveloped country like India, the crisis of capitalist overproduction due to lack of market for the low purchasing power of the pauperised people at home and stiff competition abroad with the powerful imperialist countries is not only standing as a brake for uninterrupted

growth of industries but creating condition for the closure of the existing industrial units. So it is seen that while some new industries are established many more industrial units are closed down and large number of employees are thrown out of employment. And again the question of modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture is directly linked with the question of uninterrupted industrialisation of the country. With the modernisation of agriculture through introduction of machine, a large number of people already employed in land will be rendered surplus and so this surplus labour which can not be absorbed in industry because of the present stagnation in production, made on the basis of capitalist relation of production will swell the existing vast army of the unemployed.

It is exactly due to this complex problem, the Indian bourgeoisie shudder to think of modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture and is trying to invent various palliatives instead. But these palliatives are no remedy at all and can not touch even the fringe of the problem. For the real development of the country modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture has got to be made and the modernisation and mechanisation can not be done without opening the door of uninterrupted industrialisation of the country, which again is not possible without doing away with the present capitalist relation of production.

All the present ills of the country are entirely due to the ruthless exploitation of the capitalist class. In the present epoch of moribund capitalism, Indian capitalism has developed with acute crisis and the maximum profit making motive of the capitalist production and the capitalist relation of produc-

tion are standing as a great hindrance to the future development of the country by creating all round crisis in all walks of life—economic, social and cultural. The alarming unemployment problem, the serious food crisis, severe famine, steep rise in food prices, lock-outs, lay-offs, dismissal in industries, crisis in morality, student unrest etc—all these vices are stemming from present oppressive capitalist system. So unless capitalism is overthrown and socialism is established, no problem of life can be solved. But in absence of any clear idea of socialism, various brands of spurious socialism are creating much confusion in public mind and Sm. Gandhi took advantage of the confusion after the 1969 Congress split. Not only a section of the youth and educated people were confused by the so called radical slogans and certain social democratic measures, like the nationalisation of banks etc. of the Congress but even the left parties like the CPI and the CPI(M) were also confused and befooled by such gimmicks and extended support to the Congress in the eventful days of the Congress split, in the name of fighting right reaction.

These left parties failed to realise that it was not the conservative section of the bourgeoisie but the so-called radical section of them who laid the foundation of fascism by raising the slogan of democratic socialism and adopting certain social democratic measures. The ruling Congress is trying to build fascism in our country by confusing the people with the so-called radical slogans and bringing about coalescence of the state capital with private monopoly capital and subjugating the state to monopoly interest and in the realm of culture by suppressing the process of development of scientific mental make up by

bringing about a peculiar fusion of spiritualism with technical aspect of science—the foundation of fascist culture in which individualistic thinking, national jingoism, social indifference, superstitions and other obscurant ideas thrive. The Congress party and its Government have completely shattered the limited right and values of the bourgeois democracy and completely destroyed the relative neutrality of the administration and are organising mounting attacks on the left and democratic parties and their mass organisations in some states. In the name of socialism, nationalisation of industries is resorted to within the framework of the capitalist state structure and capitalist relation of production. One should remember that keeping intact the existing capitalist system and the capitalist relation of production nationalisation of any industry by the ruling bourgeoisie is made to serve the aggregate interest of the capitalism, against encroachment not only by the workers but also by individual capitalists themselves, the state in this case working as the aggregate capitalist. By nationalisation of industries in a capitalist state neither the capitalist relation of production nor the capitalist motive force of production is changed. The only change that takes place by such nationalisation is that, in place of individual capitalist, the capitalist state becomes the owner of industries. Socialism requires the replacement of the capitalist relation of production based on wage-labour by a socialist relation of production based on social ownership of the means of production as also the replacement of capitalist motive force of production, namely, production for maximum profit by a socialist motive force of production, namely, production for

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Place the Real Revolutionary Party At the Helm of United Mass Movement

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maximum satisfaction of social need. Thus nationalisation of industries in a bourgeois state is not any socialist measure. Only when the state becomes a state of the working people, led by the proletariat, nationalisation of industries under such a state is socialisation.

By nationalising industries in the capitalist state Sm. Gandhi is trying to bring fascism in our country. So people must realise this danger. Unless capitalism is overthrown and socialism is established, no problem of life will be solved and so people must develop all their movements which will be directed against capitalism with the ultimate object of revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and establishment of socialism. The political line of the CPI and the CPI(M), which characterises the stage of Indian revolution as anti-feudal, anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist and democratic, is completely incorrect as it not only would mislead the revolutionary forces in our country away from the real enemy, namely the ruling bourgeoisie, thereby exhausting them in the long run and helping the ruling bourgeoisie to further consolidate its class rule but also refuses to smash the capitalist state machine and even to overthrow the big bourgeoisie from the state power. The strategic programme for people's democratic revolution of the CPI(M), in spite of revolutionary verbiage, objectively boils down to a programme of bourgeois national reformism. The main question of our revolution is to overthrow the bourgeoisie from the state power by revolutionary alliance of all the exploited people led by the proletariat and so to that extent Indian revolution becomes a socialist revolution in spite of the fact that many a task of the bourgeois democratic revolu-

tion are still unaccomplished. In the present era of imperialism and proletarian revolution when the bourgeoisie have become mortally afraid of revolution and counter-revolutionary as a world social force, the bourgeoisie can not complete all the anti-feudal and anti-imperialist tasks of the bourgeois democratic revolution and so these unaccomplished tasks of bourgeois-democratic revolution are to be incorporated in the programme of socialist revolution for overthrowing the bourgeoisie from the state power and smashing the capitalist state machine.

To-day the people must strive to build up a broad united mass movement with this objective of overthrowing capitalism and establishing socialism. The people of this country witnessed many mighty united movement in the past also, but as the leadership of these movements was in the wrong hand no movement could ultimately succeed in spite of many struggles and sacrifices and the people have been landed into the present plight. So in any united movement and class struggle, the question of leadership is very important. And this leadership of a real revolutionary party will be established if, while conducting united movement against the main enemy, a relentless ideological struggle is carried on, in a spirit of criticism and self criticism, without disturbing the united struggle against the main enemy. It is only through such ideological struggles that crystallisation of correct political line becomes possible and the leadership of the real working class party is established. It is only when this leadership of the real revolutionary party is established over the united mass movement, the emancipation of the people will be possible by overthrowing capitalism and establishing

Develop Sustained United Movement Call by SUCI, RSP and FB

Calcutta, August 2—A joint statement has been released today to the Press on behalf of the West Bengal State Committees of the SUCI, the RSP and the Forward Bloc in connection with the call given by the CPI and the CPI(M) for a bandh on July 27 last and announcing the programme for developing a sustained united mass movement in West Bengal against the Congress Government and the vested interests. The statement is as follows :

"The outcome of the bandh call on July 27 has confirmed our reading and established that the CPI's bandh call was actually a conspiracy solely designed to frustrate the programme adopted by the eight parties for developing a sustained united mass movement, including a bandh and, if necessary, a continuous bandh. The people have also understood that by its support to this disruptive and ill designed move of the CPI, the CPI(M) seriously disrupted the process of unity of the left and democratic parties and forces, that was developing in West Bengal in the form of eight-party combination, and dealt a severe blow to the possibilities of the development of a sustained united mass movement, already initiated by the left parties at different levels in West Bengal against the Congress Government and the vested interests.

"Though the people want the left and democratic parties to develop such a movement for the amelioration of their acute sufferings, they were to a great extent confused by the disruptive move of the CPI and the CPI(M)'s unprincipled and opportunist support to that disruptive move. But when the CPI(M), after giving the call for the bandh, made no serious and sincere attempt to make the bandh successful, leaving the whole matter

to unorganised spontaneous development, the CPI(M)'s opportunism became all the more clear to the people. As a result the CPI's disruptive move became more successful, causing a setback to the developing united sustained mass movement. This situation left the people helpless in the face of threat, intimidation and brutal attacks by the Congress, the Congress Government and Congress-backed armed hoodlums. We, however, cannot but point out that the fact of the bandh not being successful does in no way prove that the masses of the people have no indignation against the Congress and the Congress Government and that they do not approve of the bandh or any other form of movement against the Congress misrule.

"Suffering from acute distress and burning with indignation, the people earnestly desire that the left and democratic parties should seriously take up their cause and unitedly move to give at least some measure of relief to them. In response to the desire of the people, we express our determination to carry forward the programme adopted by the eight parties on July 3 and develop a sustained united mass movement in West Bengal and expect all the left and democratic parties in the state to unitedly move for the purpose. But the people at the same time want to be assured by suitable acts that in the real interest of the unity of the left and democratic parties and forces and the development of a sustained united mass movement

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socialism. So while attempting to build up united movement, people must place the real revolutionary party at the helm of united mass movement after carefully judging the politics of the party.

SUCI Strives to Develop Left Unity in Orissa

CPI(M)'S Anti-Unity Clandestine Move

Cuttack, July 27—Today on behalf of the Orissa State Committee of the SUCI, Com. Tapas Dutta has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Orissa State Committee of the CPI(M) wherein he has charged the latter with making clandestine electoral adjustments with the Pragati Party in gross violation of the agreed decision of the left parties, to which the CPI(M) also is committed, and requested the CPI(M) to seriously and sincerely move to forge a united front of the left and democratic parties and forces in the state.

In his letter Com. Dutta, in emphasising on the need of forging a united front of the left and democratic parties, has stated that at this time "when the ruling Congress through President's rule has imposed a bureaucratic and oppressive rule over the people of Orissa" and, particularly, when the sufferings of the people have become all the more unbearable because of the anti-people policies of the Congress Governments, "unity of the left and democratic parties with a view to organising the workers, the poor and middle peasants and other toiling people for a sustained united mass movement, including a united fight in the coming mid-term general election in the state, against the Congress is of supreme necessity." Serious attempts to develop this unity have been going on for quite some time.

Com. Dutta has pointed out that in course of discussions among the left and democratic parties for the purpose, it was decided unanimously (of course not in writing but verbally) that, first of all, the left and democratic parties should form a united front on the basis of an agreed programme and a "well-defined code of conduct" and allotment of seats to different constituents of the front and "then and then only talks may be opened with the other anti-Congress parties and forces for electoral adjustments" in which case no individual constituent party but "the united front as a body" should negotiate

for the electoral adjustments. "But" Com. Dutta complained, "we have definite information that in contravention of this agreed principle" the CPI(M) is "making clandestine arrangements of seats with the Pragati Party and that too at the back of other fraternal parties." He has further stated that this information of his was confirmed when a representative of the CPI(M) in one of the joint meetings of the left and democratic parties openly admitted that they have "already made adjustments of two seats with the Pragati Party."

Com. Dutta's letter then runs as follows: "At this moment when serious attempts to develop a united front of the left and democratic parties are going on, will not this sort of behaviour on the part of the CPI(M), by creating suspicion and doubts in the mind of the people and apprehension among the fraternal parties, obstruct the very process of formation of the United Front? We hope and believe that, in order to eradicate the suspicion and doubts of the people and apprehension of the fraternal left and democratic parties, your party would state its position in public and sincerely and seriously co-operate with us in developing the United Front of the left and democratic parties and united mass movements as also in unitedly fighting against the Congress in the coming general election to the State Legislative Assembly."

New Wave of Floods in Assam

Shillong, August 8—Assam is again under devastation by a new wave of floods. Even according to official reports, which are an under-statement, the second wave of floods has affected up to this date more than 10 lakhs of people in the five districts of Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Nowgong and Darrang.

Eight persons are reported to have lost their lives in the floods; thousands of houses have been washed away and standing crops in extensive areas are completely damaged. Communications between lower and upper Assam have remained suspended for about a week.

The Congress Government in the state, notorious for its criminal indifference to the sufferings and miseries of the people, has taken practically no step to either rehabilitate those persons whose houses have been washed away or give succour to the flood-afflicted people. So far it has sanctioned a paltry sum of Rs. 1.70 lakhs for the relief of 10 lakh flood-hit people, which means a sanction of only 17 paise per head. So far economic rehabilitation of the poor and middle peasants, whose standing crops have been completely damaged, is concerned, the less said, the better.

We all know that floods are nothing new in this part of our country. Assam is one of the most flood-prone areas in India and has been a chronic victim of floods almost every year. The Brahmaputra with its tributaries is Assam's sorrow. If this turbulent river can be properly harnessed then not only Assam will be saved from an annual devastation of floods but also the state as well as its people will be greatly benefited by way of irrigation facility and power supply. This can ease to some extent the acute food problem of the state and give a fillip to its industrialisation. But thanks to uninterrupted Congress rule at the Centre and in the state for twenty-six years since independence,

the Brahmaputra river valley project is in cold storage. The Centre is shirking its responsibility saying that it is for the state Government to implement the project while the State Government is sending the ball back to the Centre's court with the statement that it is beyond the financial capacity of the State Government to undertake the project. And when this wordy war between two Governments of the same ruling Congress party is going on merrily for years and decades together, the poor people of poor Assam are paying the penalty of the criminal negligence of the unscrupulous politicians running the administration of the country and of Assam by their lives and whatsoever little belongings they possess.

The Congress being what it is, it is naive to expect a better deal from it. But should the left and democratic parties and forces in Assam look to the miseries and sufferings of the people like a doll and by their inaction indirectly connive with the ruling party in perpetuating the cause of chronic distress of the people? Is not the time already high to come forward and organise the people for a sustained united movement against the Congress, the Congress Governments at the Centre and in the state and their anti-people policies to give at least some measure of relief to the flood-affected people? We appeal to the left and democratic parties in Assam to come forward, organise the masses and sincerely strive for the development of such a movement. As for us, we can assure them of our all-out effort and best co-operation in the regard.

Murderous Attacks On the Harijans

Patna, August 6—The history of the Congress rule in our country is the history of not only unbridled loot, plunder and exploitation of common men by a handful of big landowners, capitalists and tycoons. It is at the same time a shameful history of dastardly murderous attacks by the communalists on the members of the minority communities and Harijans and indescribably sadist social oppression particularly on the latter.

The Central Government has of late published some information about cases of atrocities on Harijans in different states during the period of twenty-two months from January 1971 to October 1972. The information covers only eight states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mysore, Tamil Nadu and U.P. but, nevertheless, the figures present an atrocious and extremely shameful picture. In the eight states only, in twenty-two months, 6915 cases of atrocities were reported. The atrocities includes personal violence, including rape on Harijan girls and offences against property like looting, burning down of huts, etc. of the Harijans. Uttar Pradesh tops the list with 3401 cases followed by Maharashtra with 1064 cases.

It should be noted that these atrocities on Harijans were committed not only by private individuals belonging to the so-called higher castes. The police has a big share in it. The murderous attack on Harijans in the village of Gahlor of Monghyr district in Bihar is a glaring example of it. It is reported that on April 30 last some Harijans of the village assaulted a police constable mistakenly taking him to be a kidnapper. When the villagers realised their mistake, they begged pardon of the constable. Next day the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Jamui, came to know of the incident and ordered for an immediate raid on the village. The Indian Nation has reported (issue dated July 12) that this police officer ordered the policemen "to commit rape on each and every woman in the village."

Accordingly, the village was surrounded by the police force at dead of night; the sleeping men and women were forcibly dragged out of their huts and brutally assaulted; every young woman and girl were raped; old women and children were stripped naked and flogged; whatever little belongings they had were all looted and false cases were instituted against them.

Had such a horrifying and outrageous incident taken place in any other civilised country then the whole lot of the guilty police officers and policemen would have been sacked and hauled up in jail and the Ministry compelled to resign. But that will be expecting too much from the Congress party and the Congress Government. So, official contrivance started working and the heinous crime was kept concealed for about two months. And when the whole matter came up before the Bihar Legislative Assembly, the Congress Government and the Minister for Industries belched out the police version of the case and tried their outmost to prevent an inquiry into the case by a committee of the House with the obvious intention of suppressing the truth and white-washing the criminal misdeeds of the police. But this attempt by the shameless Congress ministers did not succeed and under mass pressure the Government was forced to suspend the guilty police officials.

This single instance is enough to expose the true colour of the Congress rule in our country and its real attitude towards the poor Harijans. The Harijans must realise this reality and organise themselves along with other

Landless Harijans Evicted in Haryana

Rohtak, August 10—The Congress Government in Haryana has recently evicted 150 landless Harijan peasants of the village of Bir Sunarwala in the district of Rohtak from the land they have been cultivating for 16 years.

These landless Harijan families were allotted 284 acres of land on a yearly basis which they have been cultivating without any break for 16 years. But suddenly on the plea of setting up a seed farm, the Government came with a heavy hand on these poor Harijan families, forcibly evicted them from the land, damaged the crops they had grown on the land and took possession of it without making any alternative arrangement for means of livelihood of these poor people. Had the intention of the Government been bona-fide then it could have set up the seed farm on any other Government land or land

acquired for the purpose and would not have evicted the landless Harijan families.

This atrocious act by the Bansal Government vividly exposes the hollowness of the so-called land reform policy of the Congress party and its Governments which, under the smoke-screen of tall claims and promises of distribution of land to the landless and poor peasants, particularly Harijans, and wiping out their poverty, are actually serving kulak interests. Understanding this dubious role of the ruling party and the State Government, the displaced Harijan families are conducting movement for land.

Mounting Attacks by Employers On Workers

Calcutta, August 10—Belying the demagogic claims and tall promises of the Congress leaders and Ministers, the employer class has mounted attacks on the workers of industrial establishments in West Bengal. This will be evident from the increasing number of lock-outs declared by the employers throwing thousands of workers on to the street without any means of livelihood.

Even official statistics published by the Labour Department, Government of West Bengal, confirm this truth. According to these figures, 72.2 per cent of over 37.07 lakh of man-days lost in West Bengal in 1972 were caused by lock-outs as against 62.3 per cent in the previous year. In 1967 when the first United Front Government was in power it stood at 59.5 per cent which slumped to 18.6 per cent in 1969.

Unlike the United Front Governments, the present

sections of the people for the common cause of their united struggle against the present exploitative capitalist regime, the ruling bourgeoisie, the Congress party, the Congress Governments, their anti-people policies and all sorts of economic, political, social and cultural exploitation and oppression obtaining in our country.

Congress Government in the State has left the workers practically to the complete mercy of the employer class. Let alone suitably amending the Industrial Dispute Act with a view to banning lock-outs, the Government is not even using the existing power under section 10 of the said Act to refer the industrial disputes to tribunals and simultaneously issue orders prohibiting the continuance of lock-outs. This can at least foil the employers' drive to throw the workers out of employment and compel them to accept terms dictated by the employers. The UTUC (Lenin Sarani) strongly feels that all the Central Trade Union Organisations should unitedly move to force the Government to ban lock outs by bringing in a suitable legislation. In view of the acute unemployment problem in the state such a movement is an essential necessity.

Statement by the SUC, RSP and FB

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for the amelioration of the present miseries of the people, the programme adopted by the eight parties should be sincerely and seriously implemented and not interrupted as done by the CPI(M) by its unprincipled and opportunist support to the disruptive and ill-designed bandh call by the CPI.

"In implementing the programme for developing a sustained united mass movement, we have decided to launch an intensive campaign to mobilise public opinion against the Congress Governments and their anti-people policies by various means. We would hold public meetings at district and sub-divisional headquarters at the first stage, organise rallies and demonstrations before the offices of the BDOs, the SDOs and the DMs hold people's conventions, enlist volunteers on a massive scale, form people's committees and start other forms of mass actions, including a bandh, if necessary, a continuous bandh and no-tax movement, etc., gradually raising these mass actions to higher and still higher levels in keeping with the political and organisational preparation of the masses of the people for the

development of the movement. The movement, we envisage, is directed with a view to forcing the Government, which is responsible for the acute sufferings of the people, to change its anti-people policies. In this connection we would raise a note of caution to the diversionary tactics of the ruling party and the CPI in the name of so-called "consumers' resistance" and "dehoarding".

We have decided to observe 31st August as the Martyrs' Day throughout the state by holding a central rally and mass meeting at Saheed Miner Maidan, Calcutta and rallies and meetings at all levels down to the block level as local programmes in the districts.

"We appeal to the people to come forward to implement the programme adopted by the eight parties for developing a sustained united movement in West Bengal. We urge upon the left and democratic parties to rise to the occasion, shun disruptive and opportunist policies and sincerely and seriously implement the programme in order to carry forward the people's movement. We instruct our units to put into effect this programme."

Congress Government Serving Birlas

(Contd. from page 3)
of 10 paise per unit to Saurashtra Chemicals, a Birla concern, thereby giving a subsidy of Rs 30 lakhs a year to the Birlas. This drainage of public money to fill the coffers of the Birlas continued for years together. Now the power station has been sold out to the Birla Brothers. It is alleged that Rs 25 lakhs had changed hands in the process.

The decision to sell the Porbandar power station to the Birla Brothers was taken by the Central Government when Gujarat was under President's rule. Shri

Ghanashyam Das Oza, when he was the Chief Minister of the state, implemented this decision. Thus, both the Central Government and the State Government are jointly responsible for the sale of the Porbandar power plant to the Birlas sacrificing public interest and public money. The charge of illegal gratification of Rs 25 lakhs brought against Sri Oza by his opponents in the Congress and other political leaders in the state is too serious to be overlooked. The whole thing deserves an impartial public judicial enquiry. This demand has been voiced in the Rajya Sabha also.

Death Anniversary of Saheed Kshudiram

Calcutta, August 11—To commemorate the sixty-fifth death anniversary of Saheed Kshudiram, a meeting was held to day at the foot of the statue of the martyr to the western side of the Legislative Assembly House here. The meeting was organised by the DYU, DSO, Mahila Sanskritik Sangha, Pathikrit and the Komsomal, mass organisations of different sections of the people led by the SUCI.

Shri Hem Chandra Ghosh, veteran revolutionary leader of the days of the freedom struggle, who presided over the meeting, said that those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country could not even dream that after twenty-six years of independence of India poverty, ill health and illiteracy would prevail and that too in so massive a scale. In this connection he referred to North Vietnam and observed that if that small country, which gained independence only in 1954, could by now completely eradicate illiteracy, there was no point why in India even after twenty-six years of independence, more than 75 percent of our people would remain illiterate.

Shri Dwijendra Lal Sen Gupta M.P. thanked the organisers of the meeting for observing Kshudiram day in befitting manner. Pointing to the large number of youths and students present in the meeting, he said that it was really very refreshing that so many youths to whom belonged the future had come to pay their respectful homage to the martyr and be inspired by his patriotism and selfless sacrifice for the cause of the country.

Com. Subodh Banerjee, in tracing the history of anti-imperialist national liberation movement in our country, spoke of the two currents, compromising and the uncompromising trends, in the freedom struggle against British imperialism, illustrated with concrete instances how the Congress leadership before and after the independence of the country had tried to play down and smear the role of the then revolutionaries in the anti-imperialist freedom struggle and

urged upon the people, particularly the youths and the students, to emulate the sense of values and morality and ideal of Kshudiram in a creative way according to the social need of the changed present-day situation. He explained that nationalism which played a progressive role for social progress in the days of the freedom struggle had now become a privilege and as such, was incapable of leading the people in their struggle for further social progress for emancipation of the masses from all sorts of exploitation, economic, political, social and cultural. The ideal of nationalism in the present days had become so rotten that, let alone uplifting the moral and ethical standard, it had been leading to perverse culture, moral depravity and lack of sense of social responsibility among a large section of our people. He concluded by saying that to follow Sahid Kshudiram's ideal in the present-day changed situation, we would have to hold further aloft his banner and fight with greater dedication against all sorts of social injustice.

The meeting in a resolution demanded the observance of Kshudiram death anniversary day as a National day, due recognition and honour to all the old revolutionaries, dead or alive, to find place in our national history and the continuance of the policy of the second United Front Government in West Bengal to erect statues of Surya Sen and other revolutionaries. Coms. Chhaya Mukerjee (DSO), Abdul Rouf (DYU), Sanjit Biswas (DSO), Sikha Mukherjee (Komsomal), Usha Sen (MSS) and Pranab Chakravorty (Pathikrit) also spoke on the occasion.